

OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION USING LAUNCHED SIGNAL POWERS
SELECTED AS A FUNCTION OF A NOISE FIGURE

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 In one embodiment, an optical amplifier includes a
gain medium operable to receive a plurality of signals
each having a center wavelength and a noise figure
associated with at least a portion of the amplifier and
varying as a function of wavelength. At least two of the
plurality of signals have launch powers that are a
function of a magnitude of the noise figure measured at
or near the center wavelength of that signal.